

**THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:	:	Chapter 11
BIG LOTS, INC., <i>et al.</i> ,	:	Case No. 24-11967 (JKS)
Debtors.	:	(Jointly Administered)
	:	<b>Re: Docs. 18 &amp; 511</b>
	:	<b>Objections: Nov. 4, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.</b>

**LIMITED OBJECTION OF LEE’S CROSSING SDC, LLC  
TO DEBTORS’ PROPOSED ASSUMPTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE,  
INCLUDING CURE AMOUNT, AND RESERVATION OF RIGHTS**

LEE’S CROSSING SDC, LLC (the “Landlord”), by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby files this limited objection (the “Objection”) to the Debtors’ proposed assumption and assignment of lease, including the proposed cure amount indicated on the schedule attached to the *Notice of Potential Assumption an Assignment of Executory Contracts or Unexpired Leases and Cure Amount* (Doc. 511) (the “Notice”), and in support of its Objection, Landlord respectfully represents as follows:

**BACKGROUND**

1. Landlord and Big Lots Stores, Inc. (n/k/a Big Lots Stores, LLC) (the “Debtor”) are parties to that certain lease agreement originally dated July 19, 2019, as may be subsequently extended, amended and/or modified (the “Lease”). The Lease relates to approximately 40,680 square feet of retail space located at Lee’s Crossing Shopping Center, 4125 Highway 20, Buford, GA 30518 (the “Leased Premises”). Landlord acquired the property and received an assignment of all leases in November 2018.

2. The Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the United

States Code on September 9, 2024 (“Petition Date”). The Debtors have remained in possession of the estates’ assets and continue to manage their financial affairs pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 1107 and 1108.

3. On October 16, 2024, the Debtors filed the Notice, in which the Debtors provided notice of their intention to potentially assume and assign (the “Proposed Assignment”) the Lease to the proposed purchaser (or designee) of substantially all of the Debtors’ assets (“Purchaser”). The Landlord is not in possession of any proposed assumption and assignment agreement.

4. In the Notice, the Debtors include a proposed cure cost of **\$24,813.00** (the “Proposed Cure Amount”).

5. The deadline to file objections to the Proposed Assignment and Proposed Cure Amount is November 4, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

#### **LIMITED OBJECTION**

6. Prior to any assumption or assignment of unexpired leases in these bankruptcy cases, the debtor is required by section 365(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code to provide adequate assurance (a) that the debtor will promptly cure all defaults under the unexpired leases to be assumed and assigned and (b) of the future performance of a proposed assignee under the terms of an unexpired leases sought to be assumed and assigned.

##### ***A. Cure Amount and Adequate Assurance***

7. As of the date of this filing, the Debtors owe **\$24,992.10** in rent and other charges (the “Actual Cure Amount”). Therefore, the Debtors must satisfy the Actual Cure Amount and also provide adequate assurance that Purchaser will be able to perform under the Lease in the future, before the Debtors may assume and assign the Lease.

8. To the extent there is a dispute over the total cure obligation for the Lease, all

undisputed cure amounts should be paid upon assumption and assignment of the Lease. The Debtors should be required to escrow any disputed amounts, and the Court conduct a further proceeding within thirty (30) days of the assumption of the Lease to deal with any disputes that remain unresolved after such period.

9. Additionally, the proposed assumption and assignment of the Lease is subject to all terms of the Lease, including all obligations due and owing under the Lease such obligations that may have accrued, but may not have been billed under the Lease. By way of limited example, the Debtors are responsible for real estate taxes, utilities, and common area maintenance charges, including, without limitation, any “true up” amounts for these charges.

10. As the Landlord has not been provided with the proposed assumption and assignment agreement, any final assumption and assignment of the Lease should clearly state that Purchaser will assume these lease obligations and pay and perform them when due, regardless of whether they relate to the period prior to, or after, the proposed assumption and assignment.

11. Any release in favor of the Debtors of further liability based upon a payment of cure amounts, must specify that such release does not apply to any and all obligations of Purchaser to pay accrued or accruing, but unbilled, charges that come due under the Lease.

***B. Indemnification and Hold Harmless***

12. The Lease requires the Debtors to indemnify and hold the Landlord harmless with respect to any claims resulting from injury or damages to persons or property occurring in or about the Leased Premises subject of the Lease. Any assumption and assignment of the Lease must be subject to the terms of the Lease, including the continuation of all indemnification obligations, regardless of when any claim arose.<sup>1</sup> Nothing in any order should preclude the Landlord from

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<sup>1</sup> Any ability to assume the Lease is subject to the protections provided by Section 365(b) and (f). Therefore, any assumption must be in accordance with all provisions of the Lease.

pursuing the Debtors, its insurance, or any other party that may be liable under the Lease, and the Landlord specifically reserves its right to pursue such rights irrespective of any amounts claimed herein.

***C. Signage***

13. The Debtors are responsible for costs in connection with (a) obtaining any necessary permits, (b) placing, erecting, and maintaining signage, and (c) complying with any local codes and ordinances relating to signage. To the extent Purchaser wishes to change signage, then the Purchaser is bound by the terms of the Lease relating to same.

***D. Restrictive Use Covenants***

14. The Debtors are bound by certain restrictive covenants set forth in the Lease, which may include exclusivity, permitted and prohibited uses on the Leased Premises. Accordingly, the Purchaser is bound by these restrictions.

15. While the Landlord does not necessarily object to an assignment of the subject to this Objection, such assignment would be subject to any such restrictive use covenants.

**RESERVATION OF RIGHTS**

16. The Landlord reserves its rights to (a) amend this Objection for purposes of asserting any additional amounts which may be owed (whether pre-petition or administrative claims), including, without limitation, any rent based on percentage of sales, (b) assert any claims (including, without limitation, administrative claims) for damages to the Leased Premises, the removal of personal property left behind by the Debtors and/or for damages relating to removal or change of signage, (c) object to the proposed form of assumption and assignment agreement, (d) enforce any other rights of the Landlord or obligations of the Debtors and/or assignee in connection with the assignment of the Lease, and (e) object in the absence of compliance with any other

restrictive use covenants, including, but not limited to, for the benefit of any other existing tenants.

**WHEREFORE**, the Landlord respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order sustaining this Objection or granting relief consistent with this Objection and granting the Landlord such other and further relief as it deems just and proper.

Dated: November 4, 2024

**FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP**

/s/ Howard A. Cohen

Howard A. Cohen (DE No. 4082)

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*Counsel for LEE'S CROSSING SDC, LLC*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024, I caused a copy of the foregoing to be served through the Court's EM/ECF system on all parties receiving notices in these cases. I also caused a copy of the foregoing to be served by email on those parties entitled to notice under the Notice, as shown on the service list attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

/s/ Howard A. Cohen  
Howard A. Cohen, Esquire (No. 4082)

**EXHIBIT “A”**

**SERVICE LIST**

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP  
[Notice.biglots@davispolk.com](mailto:Notice.biglots@davispolk.com)

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